

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 5653

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: CVIS, PINT, JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN COMMUNIST PARTY (JCP) VISA REQUESTS

SUMMARY. THREE JCP OFFICIALS, ONE OF WHOM IS DIET MEMBER, HAVE REQUESTED VISAS TO ATTEND JUNE CPUSA CONVENTION. ALL CONSIDERED, WE BELIEVE THEY SHOULD BE TREATED LIKE THEIR COUNTERPARTS FROM FRENCH AND ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTIES. END SUMMARY.

1. THREE JCP OFFICIALS HAVE APPLIED FOR VISAS TO ATTEND JUNE 22 CPUSA CONVENTION. MOST PROMINENT IS KAMEJIRO SENAGA, LOWER HOUSE DIET MEMBER FROM OKINAWA AND JCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER, OTHERS ARE: HIROSHI KIKUNAMI, JCP ALTERNATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER; AND KOICHI MASUDA, JCP STAFF MEMBER. ALL ARE CLEARLY INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS UNDER SECTION 212(A)(28) INA AND WOULD REQUIRE WAIVERS.

2. FROM PURELY TOKYO PERSPECTIVE, DENIAL OF VISAS COULD PROMPT REQUEST --HOWEVER RELUCTANT --FROM DIET LEADERSHIP AND GOJ TO ISSUE VISA TO SENAGA AS DIET MEMBER. NEWS OF REFUSAL WOULD ALSO ALMOST CERTAINLY BE CARRIED BY JCP OFFICIAL ORGAN (AKAHATA) AND PROBABLY VERNACULAR PRESS WITH POTENTIAL MODEST DAMAGE TO OUR IMAGE AS FREE SOCIETY WILLING TO HEAR ALL VIEWPOINTS. FACT THAT JCP CURRENTLY IS "INDEPENDENT" (I.E. , CRITICAL OF BOTH SOVIET AND CHINESE PARTIES) AND LIKHOOD THAT JCP OFFICIALS WILL BE SCRUPULOUSLY LAW-ABIDING ALSO FACTORS WORTH NOTING. FINALLY, RECENT SERIES OF ARTICLES ABOUT US BY TRAVELLING JCP JOURNALIST HAVE BEEN MIXED BAG OF CRITICISM AND (MUTED) PRAISE.

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3. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE NO CLEAR BENEFITS, MODEST POTENTIAL COSTS OF DENYING VISAS INCLUDE US TOWARD RECOMMENDING FAVORABLE ACTION ON WAIVER REQUESTS FOR THESE THREE. BUT WE BELIEVE IT EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAT THEY BE TREATED AS ARE OFFICIALS OF OTHER COMPARABLE COMMUNIST PARTIES. THUS BEFORE MAKING WAIVER RECOMMENDATIONS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHETHER APPLICATIONS TO ATTEND CPUSA CONVENTION HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM OFFICIALS OF FRENCH OR ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTIES, AND IF SO, HOW THEY HAVE BEEN HANDLED. BY TREATING JCP OFFICIALS SIMILARLY WE WOULD ALSO BE BETTER ABLE TO EXPLAIN OUR DECISION TO CONCERNED JAPANESE OF WHATEVER POLITICAL PERSUASION.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON HANDLING OF SIMILAR REQUESTS FROM FRENCH OR ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIALS.
HODGSON

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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